

REMARKS:

- 1) In a Telephone Interview on July 27, 2004, the Examiner indicated that claim 12 appears to be allowable and that at least dependent claims 5, 6, 7 and 9 each appear to include allowable subject matter, while other claims may be subject to rejection on prior art (e.g. US 5,506,376 and US 6,315,332). The indication of allowable subject matter is appreciated.
- 2) In the present Voluntary Amendment, the claims have been amended as follows.

Amended independent claims 1 and 11 now each incorporate the respective features of original claims 5, 6, 7 and 9 as features that can be selected as alternatives or in combination from a Markush group. Namely, claims 1 and 11 are now each limited to at least one feature selected from the group consisting of a first feature according to claim 5, a second feature according to claim 6, a third feature according to claim 7, and a fourth feature according to claim 9.

Claims 5, 6, 7 and 9 have been amended to individually recite the respective first to fourth features.

New claims 13 to 16 depending from claim 12 are respectively based on the subject matter of claims 5, 6, 7 and 9.

New claims 17 to 20 depending from claim 11 individually recite the respective features based on claims 5, 6, 7 and 9.

The amendments, which merely involve claim combinations, do not introduce any new matter. Entry and consideration of the amendments are respectfully requested.

3) The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the Formal Drawings originally filed with this application on January 14, 2004, and to acknowledge the Foreign Priority Claim and receipt of the Priority Document filed herein on April 30, 2004.

4) Based on the Telephone Interviews on July 27 and August 2, 2004, the application should be allowable. Favorable consideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1 to 20, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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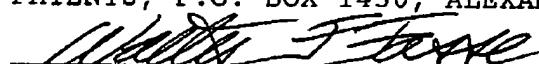
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 8/4/04
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